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| EXAMINER |
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| MCLEOD, MARSHALL M |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| **Office Action Summary** | | 10/814,861 | WEBSTER ET AL. |
| | | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | | MARSHALL MCLEOD | 4152 |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 March 2004*.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.        2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 March 2004* is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some *  c) ☐ None of:
        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *18 March 2005 and 28 December 2007*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

## DETAILED ACTION

1.      Claims 1-28 are pending in this application.

### *Priority*

2.      Examiner acknowledges applicant's domestic priority based on the provisional

application No. 60/552,469, filed on 12 March 2004.

### *Specification*

3.      The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility

application.  These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include
the following sections in order.  Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without
underlining or bold type, as a section heading.  If no text follows the section heading, the phrase
"Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

> (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
> (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
> (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR
>       DEVELOPMENT.
> (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
> (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A
>       COMPACT DISC.
>
> (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
>       (1) Field of the Invention.
>       (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97
>       and 1.98.
> (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
(i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
(j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
(k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
(l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence
      Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino
      acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence
      Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).


4.      The specification is objected to as failing to meet the preferred layout shown above. The

current specification is missing the section (f) shown above, which is the background of the

invention. The current specification is also missing section (g) shown above which is the brief

summary of the invention. Appropriate correction is required.


## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5.      The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.


6.      **Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hogan**

**et al. (Patent No US 5,483,587), hereinafter Hogan, in view of Eran (Pub. No US**

**2005/0069114 A1).**

7. With respect to claim 1, Hogan discloses a method of entering a host into a new conference call (Column 1, lines 34-38; i.e. the provided to control the setup, origination…of the conference call), the method comprising at least the following:

 a. receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

 b. receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14, lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the conference call selection);

 c. forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e. proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

 d. sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first conference participant);

 e. determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines 1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console) ;

 f. forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system (Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store = database, interface server receiving allocation database);

 g. determining that the given caller is a conference host (Column 23, lines 15-18; i.e. host = leader);

h.      determining that at least one participant has called in previously to the given

caller (Column 19, lines 26-32; i.e. previously = remind the participant why they are

being contacted and whether or no they still want to participate) and has provided a

conference code that is at least related to the conference code entered by the given caller

(Column 20, lines 63-67 and continued through Column 21, lines 1-4; i.e. conference

code entered = upon input from the participant.);

i.      requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference

code entered by the given caller (Column 15, lines 33-35; i.e. a new conference = unique

conference ID to the specific conference requested by the caller.);

j.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35;

i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

k.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference (Column 15, lines 29-35).  Hogan does not disclose

l.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

m.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU;

n.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU;

o.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier**; and

p.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.  However, Eran

discloses assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers (Page 3, [0035],

lines 2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will

be routed via switch to the mixer);

q.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

r.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU

(Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

s.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier** ( Page 4, [0044], lines 8-10; i.e. mixer

identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

t.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer.  In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.


8.      With respect to claim 24, Hogan discloses a method of entering a conference call

participant into a new conference call (Column 1, lines 34-38; i.e. the provided to control the

setup, origination…of the conference call), the method comprising at least the following:

a.      receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

b.      receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14, lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the conference call selection);

c.      forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e. proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

d.      sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first conference participant);

e.      determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines 1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console);

f.      forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system (Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface server receiving the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store = database, interface server receiving allocation database);

g.      determining that the given caller is a conference participant (Column 23, lines 15-18; i.e. participant = leader);

h.      requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference code entered by the given caller (Column 15, lines 33-35; i.e. a new conference = unique conference ID to the specific conference requested by the caller.);

i.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35; i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

j.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference (Column 15, lines 29-35). Hogan does not disclose

k.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

l.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU;

m.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU;

n.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier**; and

o.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication. However, Eran

discloses assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers (Page 3, [0035],

lines 2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will

be routed via switch to the mixer);

p.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

q.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU

(Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

r.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier** ( Page 4, [0044], lines 8-10; i.e. mixer

identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

s.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer. In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.


9.      With respect to claim 25, Hogan discloses a method of entering a conference call

participant into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following:

     a.      receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

     b.      receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14,

lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the

conference call selection);

     c.      forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e.

proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

     d.      sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference

call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first

conference participant);

     e.      determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to

conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines

1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console);

     f.      forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system

(Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface

server receiving the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store = database, interface

server receiving allocation database);

g.      determining that the given caller is a conference participant (Column 23, lines 15-

18; i.e. participant = leader);

t.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35;

i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

u.       loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference (Column 15, lines 29-35).  Hogan does not disclose

v.      requesting that the given caller be placed on hold until a conference host

associated with the conference code calls in; and

w.      when the conference host calls in, performing at least the following: assigning the

new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

x.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

y.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU;

z.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU;

aa.     loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier**; and

bb.     placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.  However, Eran

discloses requesting that the given caller be placed on hold (Page 1, [0010], lines 1-5)

until a conference host associated with the conference code calls in (Page 2, [0012], lines

1-4; i.e. host = chairman, decides to mute the noisy conferee or not).

cc.     assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers (Page 3, [0035], lines

2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will be

routed via switch to the mixer);

dd.     providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

ee.     providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU

(Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

ff.     loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier** ( Page 4, [0044], lines 8-10; i.e. mixer

identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

gg.     placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer.  In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.


10.     With respect to claim 26, Hogan discloses a method of entering a conference call

participant into a new conference call, the method comprising at least the following:

g.     receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

h.       receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14,

lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the

conference call selection);

i.       forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e.

proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

j.       sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference

call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first

conference participant);

k.       determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to

conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines

1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console);

l.       forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system

(Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface

server receiving the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store = database, interface

server receiving allocation database);

h.       determining that the given caller is a conference participant (Column 23, lines 15-

18; i.e. participant = leader);

hh.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35;

i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

ii.       loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference (Column 15, lines 29-35).  Hogan does not disclose

jj.      requesting that the given caller be connected with at least a further caller

temporarily until a conference host associated with the conference code calls in; and

when the conference host calls in, performing at least the following:

kk.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

ll.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU;

mm.     providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU;

nn.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier**; and

oo.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.  However, Eran

discloses requesting that the given caller be connected with at least a further caller

temporarily (Page 1, [0010], lines 1-5; i.e. the conferee may be connected to the

conference) until a conference host associated with the conference code calls in (Page 2,

[0012], lines 1-4; i.e. host = chairman).

pp.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers (Page 3, [0035], lines

2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will be

routed via switch to the mixer);

qq.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

rr.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU

(Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

ss.     loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier** ( Page 4, [0044], lines 8-10; i.e. mixer

identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

tt.     placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer.  In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.


11.     With respect to claim 27, Hogan discloses a method of entering a host into a new

conference call (Column 1, lines 34-38; i.e. the provided to control the setup, origination…of the

conference call), the method comprising at least the following:

a.     receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

b.     receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14,

lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the

conference call selection);

c.     forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e.

proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

d.     sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference

call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first

conference participant);

e.      determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to

conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines

1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console) ;

f.      forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system

(Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface

server, wherein the server receives the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store =

database, interface server receiving allocation database);

g.      determining that an existing conference is at least related to the conference code

entered by the given caller (Column 20, lines 63-67 and continued through Column 21,

lines 1-4; i.e. conference code entered = upon input from the participant.);

h.      determining that the given caller is a conference host (Column 23, lines 15-18; i.e.

host = leader);

i.      requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference

code entered by the given caller (Column 15, lines 33-35; i.e. a new conference = unique

conference ID to the specific conference requested by the caller.);

j.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35;

i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

k.      obtaining from the data store at least the unique identifier for the existing new

conference (Column 15, lines 29-35).  Hogan does not disclose

l.      obtaining from the data store at least the unique identifier for the existing new

conference **and the mixer identifier related to the mixer hosting the existing**

**conference**; and

m.     placing the VRU to which the given caller is connected and the mixer hosting the

existing conference in audio communication.  However, Eran discloses obtaining from

the data store at least the unique identifier for the existing new conference **and the mixer**

**identifier related to the mixer hosting the existing conference** ( Page 4, [0044], lines

8-10; i.e. mixer identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

n.     placing the VRU to which the given caller is connected and the mixer hosting the

existing conference in audio communication (Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer.  In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.


9.     With respect to claim 28, Hogan discloses a method of entering a host into a new

conference call (Column 1, lines 34-38; i.e. the provided to control the setup, origination…of the

conference call), the method comprising at least the following:

a.     receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU (Column 7, lines 14-21);

b.     receiving at least a conference code from the given caller at the VRU (Column 14,

lines 39-45; i.e. caller simply pressing a number on the keypad corresponding to the

conference call selection);

c.     forwarding the conference code to a proxy server (Column 1, lines 44-52; i.e.

proxy server = operator console forwards the information to a call controller);

d.      sending a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a conference

call (Column 1, lines 59-65; i.e. the conference call controller originates a call to a first

conference participant);

e.      determining, by the proxy server, that the request from the VRU relates to

conferencing services (Column 11, lines 64-67 and continued through Column 12, lines

1-3; i.e. proxy server = conference call controller, VRU = operator console) ;

f.      forwarding, by the proxy server, the request to a conference management system

(Column 15, lines 29-32), which comprises at least a data store and at least one interface

server receiving the request (Column 15, lines 29-32; i.e. data store = database, interface

server receiving allocation database);

g.      determining that the caller is a conference host (Column 23, lines 15-18; i.e. host

= leader);

h.      requesting that a new conference be created that corresponds to the conference

code entered by the given caller (Column 15, lines 33-35; i.e. a new conference = unique

conference ID to the specific conference requested by the caller.);

i.      generating a unique identifier for the new conference (Column 15, lines 33-35;

i.e. a unique identifier = unique conference);

j.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference (Column 15, lines 29-35).  Hogan does not disclose

k.      assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers;

l.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU;

m.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU;

n.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier**; and

o.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication.  However, Eran

discloses assigning the new conference to one of a plurality of mixers (Page 3, [0035],

lines 2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will

be routed via switch to the mixer);

p.      providing the unique identifier to the one mixer and the VRU (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

q.      providing a mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the one mixer to the VRU

(Page 3, [0036], lines 1-5; i.e. unique identifier = enhanced streams from all the selected

participants…each stream having a different mix);

r.      loading the data store with at least the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, **and the mixer identifier** ( Page 4, [0044], lines 8-10; i.e. mixer

identifier = appropriate mixer, infers mixers are identified); and

s.      placing the VRU and the one mixer in audio communication (Page 3, [0036],

lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the teachings of Hogan with the teachings of Eran to include a mixer.  In

order to make signal processing of the calls easier and less expensive, and to allow amplification

of the received signal at a frequency other than what was sent.

12.     With respect to claim 2, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above in

addition Eran discloses determining a class of mixer associated with the conference code (Eran,

Page 4, [0048], lines 3-7; i.e. appropriate mixer).


13.     With respect to claim 3, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above in

addition Eran discloses selecting a class of mixer to host the new conference based on the

conference code (Eran, Page 3, [0035], lines 5-8; i.e. selects all participants that will be routed

…to the mixer).


14.     With respect to claim 4, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above in

addition Eran discloses wherein assigning the new conference includes assigning the new

conference to a mixer of a class associated with the conference code (Eran, Page 3, [0035], lines

2-11; i.e. each analyze and enhance unit is assigned to a single participant…that will be routed

via switch to the mixer).


15.     With respect to claim 5, Hogan discloses receiving at least a second call from a second

caller seeking entry to the new conference call, wherein the at least second call is received at a

further VRU (Hogan, Column 20, lines 63-67 continued though to Column 21, lines 1-4; i.e. if

the conference participant wishes to join…occurs automatically upon input from the participant).


16.     With respect to claim 6,  Hogan discloses disconnecting a communication link between a

given conferee and the VRU (Hogan, Column 24, lines 36-42; Column 24, lines 8-11).

17.     With respect to claim 7, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 6 above in

addition Eran discloses wherein disconnecting includes the given conferee entering at least one

DTMF signal into a handset (Eran, Page 4, [0048], lines 1-8).


18.     With respect to claim 8,  Hogan discloses wherein disconnecting includes the given

conferee hanging up a handset (Hogan, Column 24, lines 28-35).


19.     With respect to claim 9, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above in

addition Eran discloses sending a disconnect message to the mixer hosting a conference to which

a given conferee coupled (Eran, Page 4, [0048], lines 1-8).


20.     With respect to claim 10, Hogan discloses sending a disconnect message includes

referencing at least one parameter that was associated with the given conferee when the given

conferee entered the conference (Hogan, Column 24, lines 43-53).


21.     With respect to claim 11, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above in

addition Eran discloses muting of a single, selected conferee (Eran, Page 4, [0045], lines 1-9).


22.     With respect to claim 12, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 11 above in

addition Eran discloses wherein muting includes at least in part referencing at least one

parameter representing an order in which a plurality of conferees entered the conference (Eran,

Page 4, [0045], lines 1-9; i.e. ).


23.     With respect to claim 13,  Hogan discloses obtaining the parameter by requesting a roll

call of the conferees (Hogan, Column 16, lines 19-31).


24.     With respect to claim 14, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12 above in

addition Eran discloses obtaining the parameter via web-based interface (Eran, Page 2, [0022],

lines 1-12; i.e. networks and multimedia conference control unit).


25.     With respect to claim 15,  Hogan discloses locking at least one given conference such

that no additional conferees may be added to the at least one given conference (Hogan, Column

13, lines 35-48; i.e. it is inherent that if a conference participant does not have a conference ID

there will be no entry into that particular conference; Column 14, lines 46-54; i.e. a person would

not setup a conference with participants that they did not want to access the conference =

locked).


26.     With respect to claim 16,   Hogan discloses wherein locking the at least one given

conference is performed on a conferencing management system without involving a mixer

hosting the at least one given conference (Hogan, Column 13, lines 35-51; i.e. conference

management system = participant database, it is inherent that if a conference participant does not

have a conference ID there will be no entry into that particular conference).

27.     With respect to claim 17,  Hogan discloses wherein locking the at least one given

conference is performed on at least one voice response unit receiving requests from the

additional conferees, by direct access to a conferencing database (Hogan, Column 13, lines 35-

51; i.e. conference management system = participant database, it is inherent that if a conference

participant does not have a conference ID there will be no entry into that particular conference).


28.     With respect to claim 18,  Hogan discloses wherein locking the at least one given

conferee is performed without involving a mixer hosting the at least one given conference

(Hogan, Column 13, lines 35-48; i.e. it is inherent that if a conference participant does not have a

conference ID there will be no entry into that particular conference; Column 14, lines 46-54; i.e.

a person would not setup a conference with participants that they did not want to access the

conference = locked).


29.     With respect to claim 19,  Hogan discloses selectively deleting an individual conferee

from a given conference (Hogan, Column 24, lines 36-42; i.e. deleting = releases).


30.     With respect to claim 20,   Hogan discloses wherein deleting the at least one individual

conferee includes referring to at least one parameter that is related to an order in which a

plurality of conferees entered the given conference (Hogan, Column 16, lines 47-49; i.e. tracks

the number of participants who have joined the conference and how many remain; Column 24,

lines 36-42; i.e. deleting = releases).

31.     With respect to claim 21, Hogan discloses obtaining the parameter via a roll call of conferees (Hogan, Column 16, lines 47-49; i.e. roll call = tracks the number of participants who have joined the conference and how many remain).

32.     With respect to claim 22, Hogan discloses obtaining the parameter by requesting a roll call of the conferees (Hogan, Column 16, lines 19-31).

33.     With respect to claim 23, Hogan discloses outdialing from within the conference call to at least one third party (Column 23, lines 6—67; i.e. …originating a call to the other conference participant (outdialing)…the operator console is available to provide additional support to the conference…conference status a list of present conference participants).

## *Conclusion*

34.     The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

        a.     Bers et al. (Patent No US 7,092,506 B1) teaches a telecommunications systems and, more particularly, to a system and method for receiving an audio response from a caller and providing this audio input to a customer service agent prior to connecting the two parties.

        b.     Williams et al. (Pub. No US 2002/0122544 A1) teaches a system and method provide a call service features in response to call control information conveyed by a

monitored bearer channel in a telecommunications network. A bearer channel monitor

captures the call control information and relays the information to a call control

application server. The call control application server analyzes the call control

information, and provides call control instructions to a call control node that operates in

the telecommunications network to effect the call service.

c.       Hagen et al. (Pub. No US 2005/0007965 A1) based on provisional application

60/473,038 filed on 24 May 2003, teaches a conferencing system that enables

communication between at least two portals on a network. An audiovisual feature

enables users at portals simultaneously see and hear each other from their respective

portals. A remote control feature enables the portals to share, display, and/or control

software applications or an entire desktop from a remote location. A media streamer

feature enables a host portal in a conference to stream local media files to other portals.

d.       Weisman et al. (Pub. No US 2004/0047461 A1) teaches a method and apparatus

to allow individuals to initiate, join, manage, and participate in a conference call.


35.     Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to MARSHALL MCLEOD whose telephone number is (571)270-

3808. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m-5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Nabil El-Hady can be reached on (571) 272-3963. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.M.			1/29/2008

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